



BURLINGTON POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

August 2023



Aug 19, 2023 – all data preliminary & subject to change



“EXCITING SIGN OF HOPE & PROGRESS”

On Thursday, August 3, 2023, we held a [Swearing In and Promotions Ceremony](#).

Mayor Weinberger presided and noted that “public safety is the most important function of local government.”

Three corporals were promoted to sergeant, and three sergeants were promoted to lieutenant. Chief Murad was officially promoted, too. We swore in six new professional employees, including a records clerk, a CSL, our Recruitment Coordinator, our PIO, and two dispatchers. And we swore in five new police recruits.

Employees new and old and their families were in attendance, as well as Police Commissioner Mary Cox. They were joined by City Council President Karen Paul and Councilors Mark Barlow, Sarah Carpenter, and Tim Doherty, and US Attorney Kolo Kerest, among other valued guests.



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OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING REVIEW TO BEGIN

Just over a year ago, on Saturday, August 13, 2022, officers responded to a call for service that involved a man with a knife. Upon arrival, they opened negotiations with the man, David Johnson, whom they had successfully deescalated in prior instances, including a barricade situation in March 2022. This time, however, he was on a sidewalk rather than contained in an indoor location. After four minutes of negotiation, in which Officer Brock Marvin repeatedly offered Mr. Johnson help and assistance, Mr. Johnson suddenly charged Officer Marvin with the knife. Sergeant Simon Bombard fired his service pistol, striking Mr. Johnson in the leg and saving Officer Marvin from serious injury or death. On August 3, 2023, the Attorney General and Chittenden County State's Attorney announced that they had reviewed the incident and deemed it justified. The BPD is now finalizing its internal affairs review, as per [DD05 Statewide Policy on Police Use of Force](#). Before finalization, that review will be shared with the Mayor as per his [Executive Order of September 2020](#) and with the Police Commission as per our [August 2020 agreement](#).





BPD SWORN OFFICER HEADCOUNT, 2015-2023

TOTAL SWORN HEADCOUNT, as of the first of each month, month-by-month



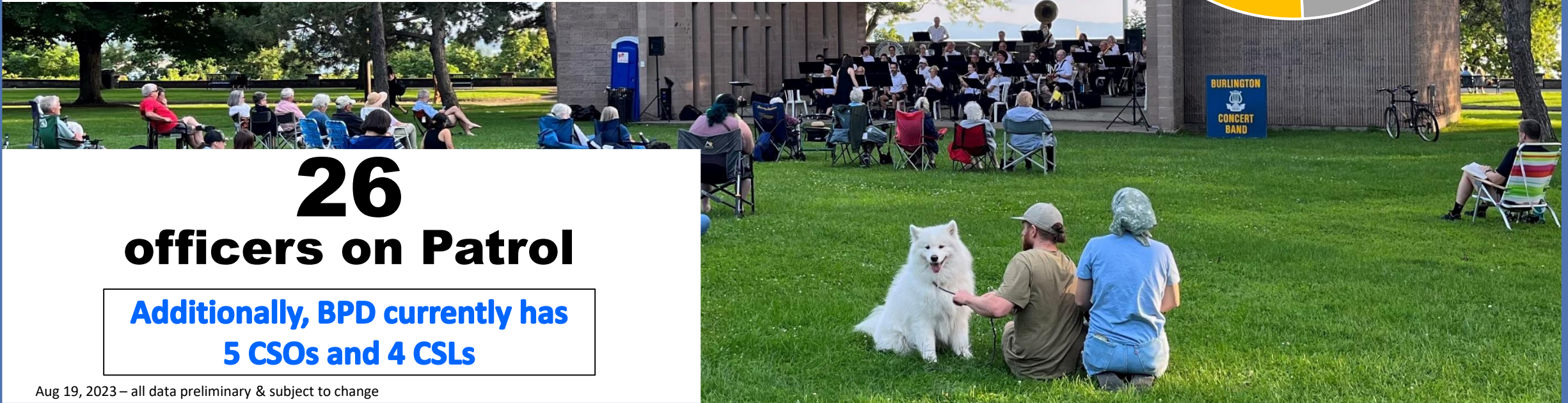
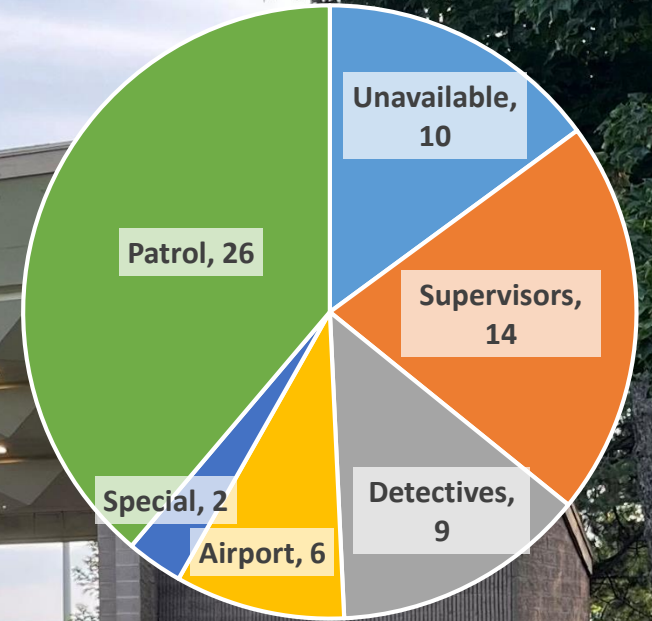
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67 TOTAL, 57 AVAILABLE

As of August 15, 2023, the BPD has **67 total sworn officers**, of whom 57 are available to be independently deployed. Historically, headcount has been in the high 90s; currently we are authorized for 87 officers.

- minus 10 on injury, on FTO, or at VPA = 57
- minus 14 supervisors = 43
- minus 9 detectives = 34
- minus 6 airport officers = 28
- minus 2 special assignments = 26



26 officers on Patrol

Additionally, BPD currently has 5 CSOs and 4 CSLs



REVISED PRIORITY RESPONSE PLAN

PRIORITY 1	High priority.
PRIORITY 2	Middle priority. (*) = situationally dependent; some may be Priority 1 or Priority 3.
PRIORITY 3	Low priority. Response may be delayed based on officer availability; may receive a CSO response.

We originally implemented [the Priority Response Plan](#) in May 2021. We have made several revisions, shown in this chart. The categorization of incidents has **not** changed. (Our primary goal remains **NEIGHBORS' PHYSICAL SAFETY**, so Priority 1 incidents are still Priority 1 incidents, etc.) But many Priority 3 incidents will now receive a different response.

In the chart, **incidents labeled "CSO"** will initially receive a response from a CSO, rather than a police officer, unless the incident evolves in a way that changes its category or requires a sworn officer.

Incidents labeled "ONL" (for "Online Only") will be diverted to an online reporting function. Unless extenuating circumstances apply, callers will be asked to make an online report. There are reporting mechanisms for callers who do not have Internet access.

Additionally, during daytime weekday hours when DSB detectives are available, **DSB will handle untimely deaths.**

911 Hangup	Cruelty to a Child	Illegal Dumping	CSO	Robbery
Airport AOA Violation	Cruelty to Animals	Impeding a Public Officer		Runaway
Airport Duress Alarm	Custodial Interference *	Impersonation of a Police Officer *		Runaway Apprehension
Airport PHASE Alarm *	Disorderly Conduct *	Inciting a Felony		Search
Alcohol Offense	Disorderly Conduct by Elec Comm	Intoxication	CSO	Search Warrant
Animal Problem	Disturbance	Investigation - Cold Case		Sex Offender Registry Violation
Arrest on Warrant	DLS	Juvenile Problem *		Sexual Assault
Arson	Domestic Assault - Felony	Kidnapping		Sheltering/Aiding Runaway
Assault - Aggravated	Domestic Assault - Misd	Larceny - from a Building		SRO Activity
Assault - Simple	Domestic Disturbance	Larceny - from a Motor Vehicle		Stalking
Assist - Agency	Drugs	Larceny - Other		Stolen Vehicle
Assist - Car Seat Inspection	Drugs - Possession	Larceny from a Person		Subpoena Service
Assist - K9	Drugs - Sale	Lewd and Lascivious Conduct		Suicide - Attempted
Assist - Motorist	DUI	Lockdown Drill		Suspicious Event *
Assist - Other	Eluding Police	Mental Health Issue *		Theft of Rental Property
Assist - Public	Embezzlement	Minor in Possession of Alcohol		Theft of Service
Background Investigation	Enabling Consumption by Minors	Missing Person		Threats/Harassment *
Bad Check	Escape	Motor Vehicle Complaint	CSO	Traffic
Bar / Liquor License Violation	Extortion	Noise	CSO	Trespass *
Bomb Threat	False Info to Police	Obstruction of Justice		TRO/FRO Service
Burglary *	False Pretenses	Operations		TRO/FRO Violation
CHINS	False Public Alarms	Ordinance Violation - Other	CSO	Unlawful Restraint
Community Outreach	False Swearing	Overdose		Untimely Death
Compliance Check	Fireworks	Parking	CSO	Use of Elec Comm to Lure a Child
Computer Crime	Foot Patrol	Possession of Stolen Property		Uttering a Forged Instrument
Contributing to Delinquency of Minor	Forgery	Prescription Fraud	ONL	Vandalism
Counterfeiting	Found/Lost Property	Prohibited Acts		VIN verification
Crash - Fatality	Fraud	Property Damage	CSO	Violation of Conditions of Release *
Crash - Injury to person(s)	Fugitive From Justice	Reckless Endangerment *		Voyeurism *
Crash - LSA *	Graffiti Removal	Recovered Property	CSO	Weapons Offense
Crash - Non-Investigated	Hindering Arrest	Resisting Arrest		Welfare Check *
Crash - Property damage only	Homicide	Retail Theft		
	Identity Theft	Roadway Hazard		



INCIDENT VOLUME

YEAR-TO-DATE 8/15

	YTD INCIDENTS (as of 8/15)	%Δ
2018	18,588	100%
2019	17,783	↓4%
2020	15,510	↓13%
2021	13,049	↓16%
2022	15,011	↑15%
2023	18,330	↑22%
	Δ 2018 to 2023:	↓1%

Year-to-date, **incidents in 2023 are up 22% compared to 2022. They are up 41% over 2021.** In fact, 2023's incident volume is essentially equal to 2018's.

Patrol officers are addressing the same number of incidents with 50% fewer patrol officers. Of the 18,330 incidents in 2023 so far, 2,177 have been “stacked”—i.e., 12%.

Additionally, 2,223 have been referred to online reporting, or 12%.





SELECTED VALCOUR INCIDENTS, YTD AS OF AUGUST 15

	Assault - Agg	Assault - Simple	Burglary	Crash w Injury or Fatal	Disorderly Conduct	Domestic Assault*	Domestic Disturb	Gunfire	Larceny (all)**	Mental Health Issue	Overdose	Robbery	Sexual Assault	Stolen Vehicle	Traffic
2018	33	111	104	52	87	42	294	2	331	474	37	11	37	11	1,794
2019	32	98	61	51	95	54	284	3	414	477	30	14	37	32	1,285
2020	33	87	60	36	74	37	426	7	439	608	65	12	40	31	901
2021	38	88	71	54	70	26	325	10	567	624	72	7	31	54	522
2022	46	106	102	60	91	27	350	20	942	721	121	12	27	209	293
2023	24	120	108	76	53	30	270	8	839	619	288	12	18	192	404

* = combines incidents categorized as “Domestic Assault – Felony” and “Domestic Assault – Misdemeanor”

** = combines incidents categorized as “Larceny from a Person,” “Larceny – from a Building,” “Larceny – from Motor Vehicle,” and “Larceny – Other”

NOTE: All categories shown year-to-date, through August 15 of their respective year

NOTE: These data are derived from Valcour incidents. Valcour is the BPD’s computer-aided dispatch and records-management system. Incidents are initially categorized by dispatch according to the information provided by a caller; the category may be changed by the officer who responds to the scene and/or the detective who takes the case. Offense data and/or NIBRS data may differ.



THE BPD IS HIRING!

\$74,500
starting pay

\$100,000
top pay (when contract matures)

and a \$15,000
hiring bonus

- City retirement with 5-year vesting
- Shift differential, weekend, and holiday pay
- **full medical benefits** and wellness incentives
- Retirement after 20 years of service at 50% salary
- Retirement after 25 years of service at 75% salary
- 15-step pay scale for non-supervisory employees
- Overtime can be received as cash or vacation accrual
- **10-hour workday, 4-days-on/3-days-off schedule**
- **Weekends off every other month**
- Yearly education bonus
- Beards and tattoos permitted
- Various **specialty assignments** such as detectives, narcotics, K9, domestic violence prevention, airport
- **Applicant can be a non-U.S. citizen** if applicant is a permanent resident / green-card holder

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